

LEADERSHIP

Session

Jim Plunk, Moderator
Bob Barber
Scott Sartor
Tim Chapman, Clerk
Chas Emerson

Shaun Sipe*

*Sabbatical

**Emeritus

***Deacon on duty

Diaconate

Andrew Duff, Chairman***
Nick Manley
Robert Massey
Chris Tingle, Secretary
Charlie Smith

Chris Lyons*

David Wright*

Dick Brankstone**

Christ Covenant Church (PCA)

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Sue Tarver, Pianist

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*"For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord,
with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake."*

2 Corinthians 4:5

Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost
8.31.25

Notes

If you are new to church, the notes in this margin are a way to help you understand and follow along through each aspect of today's service. If you like, use the free space to take your own notes about anything you find interesting or thought provoking. If you have additional questions, you can talk with a church officer after the service.

Congregational Standing

Throughout the bulletin the asterisk * denotes congregation standing

We encourage you to use this bulletin during the week to reflect on what you have heard and experienced during worship. You can use the prayers, confessions, and scripture for personal worship and devotional time at home

WELCOME!

Thank you for joining us for worship today. Here at Christ Covenant, we seek to celebrate God’s grace through Jesus Christ, who came to give us life today and for eternity. We also seek to cultivate a safe environment for the convinced and unconvinced to hear the free offer of the gospel in Jesus Christ. Whether you are a follower of Jesus, or it has been a while since you’ve considered your relationship to Him, or you are exploring His claims for the first time, we are delighted to have you with us today. We would love to be able to connect with you and share with you more about the ministry of our church. If you are a visitor, please take a moment during the service to fill out a Visitor Card located in the back of the chair and put it in the offering plate. We have a visitor bag for you in the lobby with a mug, coffee, pens and Dane Ortland’s book, “Gentle and Lowly, The Heart of Christ for Sinner’s and Sufferers.”

Ushers: Andrew Duff & Nick Manley

A/V Assistant: Matthew Frank

Communion & Coffee: Shaun & Shannon Sipe

Hosts: Britt & Charlie Emerson

Nursery Helpers:

Service—Karol Barber, Jamie Smith & Ruthie Smith

Sunday School—Bobbie Wilkerson

For Your Children: We welcome children to attend and participate in the corporate worship by singing, praying and offering responses as they are able. For older children, we offer opportunities to hear a lesson that is age appropriate. For ages 4 years old and under, we offer Children’s Church during the sermon portion of the service. Children will be dismissed before the sermon. For younger children, infants to age 3, we provide a nursery throughout the service for parents who would prefer not to have their children with them.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Be sure to sign up on our website to receive the weekly E-news which is sent every Wednesday with the latest up-to-date information.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH

Sunday—August 31st

9:00am—Preservice prayer

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am—Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion

11:00am—Newcomer’s Luncheon

Monday – September 1st

Office Closed—Happy Labor Day!

Tuesday—September 2nd

5:30pm—Men’s bible study

Wednesday—September 3rd

6:30am—Men’s morning bible study

9:00am—Women’s bible study

6:00pm—Women’s bible study, Youth, Kids’ Club

Thursday—September 4th

No activities planned

Friday—September 5th

No activities planned

Saturday—September 6th

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- Fall break—10.6-10.10
- Fall Fest—10.19
- Joint Reformation service—10.26
- Thanksgiving Feast—11.9
- CPYC—11.14-16, registration begins 10.8
- Hanging of the Greens—12.7

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 8.30-9.7

Paul Belenchia • Dick & Emily Brankstone

Illness/Medical Prayer Needs: Helen & Monte Morgan • Dick & Emily Brankstone • Kim Murphree, recovering from cancer surgery • Conner & Makailey Newton, expecting their third child • Elijah & Emma Vaughn, expecting their first child • Emerson & Bobbie Wilkerson, mourning the loss of Emerson’s brother

Prayer Requests: Land and Building Committee

OUR LOCAL & WORLD MISSIONS

Please pray for these local and world missions and our missionaries.

Peru Mission (Chimbote Church Plant) • Bill Berry (Christ Redeemer in Jonesboro) • RUF: John Craft (Rhodes College), John Crosby, Spencer Sipe (University of Memphis), Justin & Carey Helms (LSU) • Jermaine Van Buren Jr., (Jackson State) • Reclaimed Ministry • Ricky Kroeger (Wycliffe Bible Translators—Mexico) • Conner and Makailey Newton (18.26 Network)

Sermon Preview

9.7.25	Matthew 3:13-4:11	Baptism and Temptation of the King
9.14.25	Matthew 4:12-25	Ministry of the King
9.21.25	Matthew 5:1-12	Living in the Kingdom: Virtues
9.28.25	Matthew 5:13-16	Living in the Kingdom: Salt & Light

ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

Gospel Welcome

Prelude

*Call to Worship Rev. Jim Plunk

PASTOR: For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.

PEOPLE: Be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness.

PASTOR: I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. Isaiah 65:17-19

*Song of Adoration O Worship the King #2

*Invocation (concluded by the Lord’s Prayer)

ALL: Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Preparing for Worship
With so many distractions vying for our attention, this is a time to listen to the prelude music, read of Vision Statement on the front cover, and get ready for the service.

Call to Worship
If worship is offering all that we are to all that God is, then this call is a way to proclaim this movement, while also challenging us on what we worship daily.

Why we sing
We sing in order to remember the stories of how God has worked in our loves. Singing takes the truth of who God is and what He is doing, and applies it into our lives.

Prayer of Invocation
Is from the Latin *invocare*, meaning “to call on.” God has called us to worship—and now, in grateful response, we cry out for His presence among us.

The Lord’s Prayer
Jesus gave this example in the New Testament (Matthew 6:9-13) to show us how to pray. We use this prayer corporately each week as a reminder.

Confession is the time when we are honest about ourselves with each other and with God. As we admit our misplaced affections, we are called to reorder our lives. Only by being honest will the good news of grace be significant and needed.

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort are encouraging words which is what we need to hear after the honesty of our confession

Confession of Sin

PASTOR: Our God tells us to confess our sins, trusting that he is faithful to forgive us our sins. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Almighty God.
ALL: Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that he cannot hear, but our iniquities have seperated us from our God, and our sins have hidden his face from us so that he does not hear. Our mouths are filled with anger, our lips are quick to speak lies, and our eyes are filled with illicit desires. Our feet swift to run to evil and our thoughts are the thoughts of iniquity. Lord, in your grace, only you can intercede and bring health to us. Hear us as we confess our sins to you, for you only are strong enough to save us and bring us life! *Isaiah 59*

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. *Isaiah 1:18*
ALL: I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me. *Galatians 2:20*

*Song of Renewal

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School: Will not meet today and resume next week. Adults meet in the sanctuary, Youth will meet in the south end and they will begin a study about the image of God and how it impacts life. The kids meet in the classrooms. We are happy to have introduced a program for toddlers as well who will receive their lesson in the toddler nursery.

Pray For Me: This campaign was relaunched and new assignments were sent in the mail with the quarterly letter. Please talk to Christa with any questions!

Inquirer’s Class: If you’re interested in learning more about Christ Covenant and next steps for membership, Pastor Jim will be leading this class during Sunday school on Sundays during the month of September after church during Sunday school. Please sign up to help us plan for space and materials: www.christcovenantms.org/signup

Meal Calendars: If you’re able to provide a meal for Monte & Helen Morgan or Dick Brankstone, please visit our website to find the sign up: www.christcovenantms.org/signup

Newcomer’s Luncheon: If you’ve been visiting with us, we’d love to have you attend a Newcomer’s Luncheon today, after service, followed by the Inquirer’s Class in September.

Men’s Gathering: The next men’s gathering will be Wednesday, 9.10 from 6:00pm-7:30pm at the Patridge’s home, 2805 Magnolia Drive, Hernando. Join in for a night of fellowship, food and a powerful message from guest speaker, Kevin Drewry. Talk to Bailey if you have any questions!

Adult Bible Studies: Men meet Tuesdays at 5:30pm and Wednesdays at 6:30am. Women meet at 9:00am and 6:00pm with childcare provided. All classes meet at the church.

Community Groups: Have resumed at the homes of various members based on location. This is a great way to get to know more people in the church and grow together. Groups are based geographically and meet in member homes. Please see an elder to be placed in a group. Community Group fall dates: 9.7, 9.21, 10.12, 11.2, 11.16

COMMUNION GUIDELINES AND PRAYERS

Bread: Each tray contains gluten-free bread in the brown cup.

Cup: Each tray has wine in the outer rim. The pink cups in the center are filled with grape juice.

When we celebrate the Lord’s Supper, we are gathering around the table of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore, we invite all followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this wonderful sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation which proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his church.

Parents, your children are welcome to partake, if they have been baptized and been received as a communing member of the church to which you belong. If you think your child is ready to become a member, please speak to one of the elders.

Prayer for Covenant Children (not yet a communing member)

Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. I now resolve in humble reliance on the Holy Spirit to seek to walk in a manner pleasing to you. Amen.

Prayer of Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

We confess our faith as an act of worship, together with Christians in all times and places. “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

The term “catholic” refers to the church universal, knowing no racial, economic, or geographic barriers.

Offertory is a time for prayerful reflection and response by considering how to be generous with your time, talents and resources. If you are new to our church, or exploring Christianity, please don’t feel obligated to give. Instead, please be sure to fill out a visitors card which can be found in the lobby. Also, you can give securely on our website : <https://christcovenantms.org/online-giving/>

Doxology We sing this short hymn of praise to thank and adore our God of glory.

The Sermon is a teaching based on the passage from the reading of God’s Word. The role of the sermon is to make real truths of the Gospel. It is not just an intellectual function. Rather, using the imagination, our hearts are to be affected by the text.

COMMITTING TO GOD’S KINGDOM

***Confession of Faith** Elder Tim Chapman

LEADER: We confess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed:

ALL: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Nicene Creed

Kingdom Moment Membership Vows

Cindy Williams • Reed & Rosemary Fancher • Elijah & Emma Vaughn

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing #457*

***Doxology** *(Children under 4 dismissed at this time)*

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God’s Word *Matthew 3:1-12 (p. 758)*

READER: The grass withers, the flowers fade

ALL: But the word of our God will stand forever. *Isaiah 40:8*

The Sermon Rev. Jim Plunk

⁵
“Preparation for the King”

COMMUNING WITH GOD

The Great Thanksgiving

PASTOR: The Lord be with you

PEOPLE: And with your spirit

PASTOR: Lift up your hearts

PEOPLE: We lift them up to the Lord

PASTOR: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

PEOPLE: It is right to give Him thanks and praise

PASTOR: By your power you raised Jesus from death to life. Through his victory over the grave we are set free from the bonds of sin and the fear of death to share the glorious freedom of the children of God. In his rising to life you promised eternal life to all who believe in him. We praise you that as we break bread in faith, we shall know the risen Christ among us.

Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and saying...

ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

PASTOR: Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us!

PEOPLE: Hallelujah!

PASTOR: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith:

PEOPLE: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Hallelujah!

PASTOR: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

Holy Communion

Prayer of Dedication

The Great Thanksgiving:
Following the pattern of Jesus, this prayer of thanksgiving reminds us this is a meal offering thanks to God for all he has done as we bring our whole selves to him with the communion of the saints.

Words of Institution: These words recorded in the synoptic gospels and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 are words from Jesus setting this meal apart from every other meal as a holy sacrament for God’s people.

The Memorial Acclamation reminds us of the center of history and our lives; the death, resurrection, and return of Jesus.

The Lord’s supper: God meets us not only in hearing the Word, but also in visible, tangible form—uniting us with himself spiritually by faith in Christ

GOING OUT WITH GOD’S BLESSING

*Song of Sending On Jordan’s Stormy Banks

*Benediction

PASTOR: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14

ALL: Amen

*Gloria Patri

Sermon Notes

Continuing a new series: The Mission of Jesus in the Kingdom of God:
Studies in the Gospel of Matthew
“Preparation for the King ”
Matthew 3:1-12 (p. 758)

The call to repentance

The details of false repentance

The power of repentance

The Benediction
is how we close our time of worship. It is not a prayer but rather a blessing with a charge to go beyond our church into the world carrying the hope, joy and love of the Gospel.

Gloria Patri
We have heard and witnessed God’s glory. Now we leave singing His glory that others might know His glory.

Sermon Audio
If you want to listen to any archived sermons, please visit the sermon page on our website
www.christcovenantms.org
or on our app on your smartphone. All music used by permission. CCLI License #3258262

Practical Needs and Prayer
If you have questions or would like to pray with someone, our officers can be available after the worship service, or you may call the church office and leave a message for a deacon at 662.469.9330 and someone will get in touch with you. You can also send prayer requests to office@christcovenantms.org.